

# 2016

## Men's Northwest 50 Plus Slow-pitch Softball League Rules

### Team Responsibilities

1. Game days/times: Thursday nights at 6:30 pm (times may vary for double headers). Each game will consist of 7 innings.
2. Winning team is responsible for emailing the scores to Scott Mercer at [mercerse@troymi.gov](mailto:mercerse@troymi.gov) by noon on the Friday following the game. Scores will be posted on the league website and can be viewed at <http://troymi.gov/PlayHere/Outdoor/Sports/AdultSports/50PlusSoftball.aspx>. If the score is for a make up game please state the original date the game was scheduled.
3. Rosters must be in Troy Recreation office by May 14. Additions/deletions will be allowed after this date if maximum number of players has not yet been reached. Deadline for roster changes is June 20.
4. The number of games won will determine the division champions. In case of a tie, individual team records between each other will determine the winner. If a tie still exists, tie will be broken in the following order: run differential between the two teams, overall runs against and/or a playoff game will be played.
5. All make up games must be completed by the last day of games on the schedule.
6. **New** - Over the fence homerun limit is five (5). Any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out and no runners may advance.
7. You must be 50 years old in the calendar year to participate.
8. Teams must field at least seven (7) players and not more than ten (10) players. If a team has less than 10 players, that team may borrow a player or players from the opponent if both managers agree prior to the start of game. The results will stand. If they do not agree, the team must play short-handed or forfeit the game.
9. Rosters are limited to twenty (20) players.

### Equipment

1. The home team is responsible for supplying an umpire, a strike mat, a safety base at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 game balls (1 new and 1 in good, useable condition.) Balls must be ASA approved 44/375 core 12 inch of any brand name you choose. Home team scorebook is official book.

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2. Bats must be listed on the ASA approved bat list to be used in league play. The Northwest League will not be following the adopted ASA bat rule for the senior divisions. All bats used in the Northwest League must be on the approved bat list all divisions of play in ASA.  
[http://www.metrodetroitasa.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=83&Itemid=176](http://www.metrodetroitasa.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=83&Itemid=176)

#### Field

1. A scoring line shall extend 20 feet from the third base foul line even with the top corner of the plate. (See diagram attached) The end of the scoring line farthest from home plate shall be marked clearly visible to a runner attempting to score and the umpire. To score, a base runner must have a foot down on or beyond the scoring line before a defensive player in possession of the ball touches the "strike mat". (All plays at home are force outs) The "strike mat" belongs entirely to the catcher or defensive player. If a runner runs through the batters box or touches the strike mat while attempting to score, they will be declared out. No tag is allowed by the player attempting to make a play on the base runner once that runner has crossed the commitment line and is heading home.
2. Commitment line will be drawn 30 feet from third base. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, the runner may not re-cross it in the direction of third base. Result: The runner is out.
3. Bases must be anchored. A safety first base shall be used at first base. If there is a play on a batter going to first base, the batter must touch the portion of the safety base extending into foul territory. See ASA rule 8-2-M.
4. A strike zone mat will be used. The mat will be 17 inches wide and 36 inches long. The mat will cover home plate starting at the front edge. Legal pitches striking the mat will be called strikes.

#### The Game

1. An inning will consist of three (3) outs or a maximum of five (5) runs, whichever occurs first. This 5 run rule does not apply when the team batting is behind. In this case, runs may be scored until the batting team ties the score. The ball is dead after the tying run is scored. The five run rule is not in effect in the last regulation inning of the game or any subsequent innings.
2. In the case of an umpire not showing for a game, each team will supply a person to call the game. There will be a substitute umpire behind the plate and one on the bases. If the managers agree to substitute umpires prior to start, the game will stand. If the managers decide not to play, then the game will be made up at a date agreed upon by both managers.

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3. The pitcher at his discretion is allowed to pitch from anywhere within the pitching box. Safety is the main consideration behind the pitching box. The box extends from the rubber (50 feet from home plate) and is drawn back 6 feet. The pitcher can pitch from any part of the box. The arc remains the same (6-foot minimum and 12-foot maximum) and the ball must still hit the strike to count as a strike.
4. The mercy rule can apply after 4 1/2 or 5 complete innings if the losing team is behind by 15 runs or more. Game is declared over and team leading will be recorded as the winner. Teams may use field to continue to play additional two innings by mutual consent. Umpires are not required to stay.
5. Players will be able to slide feet or head first into 2nd/3rd base or back to 1st base if necessary. No sliding at home or on initial run to 1st base.
6. Runners shall be called out for contact with a defensive player if, in the judgment of the umpire, the contact was deliberate or the runner could have reasonably been expected to minimize or avoid contact and failed to do so.
7. Base runners over running second or third are subject to a tag putout.
8. No fouls balls after are permitted after two strikes. Batter will be ruled out.
9. Home team score book is official.

#### **Batter line up**

1. A continuous batting line up for all players present and able to play will be used. Players arriving late may be added at the bottom of the line up. Injured player may be skipped in the batting order without incurring a penalty of an out. Injured player may not return to the game.
2. Teams may have a base runner from behind home plate (one foot on line directly back from home plate behind umpire. This must be declared prior to the start of the game and must follow courtesy runner rule. Courtesy Runner Rule: once a batter becomes a base runner, a courtesy runner may be used. A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner at any time. Courtesy runner must be the last out in the line-up if that player is an eligible runner. If the last out is not an eligible runner(in need of a courtesy runner), the previous out/batter in the line-up will run. Another courtesy runner may replace a courtesy runner on base when it is their turn to bat without penalty. The courtesy runner replacing the base runner must adhere to the courtesy runner rule.

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#### **Weather policies**

1. A game shall become official after it reaches the 4-½ inning mark (with home team ahead) in case of rain interruption. If the game has not reached the above circumstances, the game must be rescheduled and played from the start of the game.
2. In the event of a rain out, teams must agree on a mutually acceptable date for a make-up game.

#### **Protest**

1. If games are to be put under protest because of an infraction of a rule or eligibility of a player, the following steps must be taken:
  - a) The manager of the protesting team must immediately notify the umpire prior to the next pitch that the game is being continued under protest.
  - b) The umpire will notify both scorekeepers that the game is under protest and the umpire will sign protest and both books.
  - c) Protest of a game shall be made in writing and filed along with a fee of \$25.00, with the league administration no later than 48 hours after the game in which the alleged violation occurred. The letter must include: See Rule 9 of the current ASA Official Rules of Softball.
  - d) All protests shall be acted upon by the league administration.
  - e) The protest fee shall be returned if the protest is upheld.

Have a Great Season!

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